

The Daily Charge

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Operation Iraqi Freedom II

"Telling the First Team's Story"

Friday, April 9, 2004

"Our Attackers Have Been Defeated"

By Sgt. Merriion LaSonde

122nd MPAD

In an impromptu press conference following a mission briefing yesterday afternoon, General John Abizaid, commanding general of the U.S. Central Command, and Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commanding general, 1st Armored Division, addressed the current situation in Iraq.

When asked if he felt negative feeling was widening among the population, Abizaid responded, "I feel it is a small group of people, anti-democratic in their outlook, that are trying to stop the forward movement of the Iraqi people."

Dempsey added, "There are militias seeking to intimi-

date the local populace. When confronted, our attackers have been defeated. We have said that there will be no militias allowed. When we have encountered fights, they have been rapid, violent and very successful on our part."

Addressing the question of whether or not 1st AD would extend their stay in Iraq after the transfer of authority to the 1st Cavalry Division, Abizaid said, "We have some of the most experienced and battle-ready troops currently on the ground. If the troops' stay here has to be extended to get the job done, so be it." This is a slow campaign. We are trying hard not to harm innocent civilians.

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By Sgt. Merriion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

General John Abizaid and Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey are interviewed by a reporter from CNN during a press conference about the recent attacks on coalition forces by the Shiite militia.

'Red Team' Takes Reins of Securing Al Rashid

By Cpl. Bill Putnam

122nd MPAD

CAMP FERRIN-HUGGINS- The 1st Cavalry Division's 5th Brigade Combat Team assumed the mission of securing Baghdad's Al Rashid District from the 1st Armored Division's Division Artillery Combat Team at a transfer-of-authority ceremony April 6.

Attended by the commanding generals and command sergeants major of both divisions, the 30-minute-long



Col. Stephen Lanza and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Schindler of 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, uncasing the unit's colors during the transfer-of-authority ceremony April 6 at Camp Ferrin-Huggins.

By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

mission of patrols and searches from one another.

"The 'Red Team' stands ready to assume responsibility of the Al Rashid District of

Baghdad," said Col. Stephen Lanza, the 1st Cavalry's 5th Brigade Combat Team, or Red Team, commander.

Both Lanza and Col. Jonathan Brockman, 1st Armored Division's Artillery commander, thanked the various Iraqi security agencies for their professionalism and contributions to the rebuilding of Iraq during their speeches.

"We are excited to be working with the brave men and women of the Iraqi Civil

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1AD DIVARTY Completes Mission

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Defense Corps, the Iraqi Force Protection Services and the Iraqi Police who are dedicated to the promise of a free and sovereign Iraq," Lanza said.

Brockman thanked the ICDC's 304th Battalion and its commander. "[The] ICDC has grown into an effective tool for maintaining peace and stability for the citizens of Al Rashid."

Since arriving in Iraq a year ago, the 1st Armored's DIVARTY Combat Team has completed a number of different missions. The DIVARTY Combat Team, the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, led the force protection package at Baghdad International Airport.

Later, the unit set up a counter-battery center to combat the mortar and rocket



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, salute during the playing of the U.S. national anthem during the transfer-of-authority ceremony April 6.

fire into the airport and 1st Armored Division's headquarters.

In January, they moved to Forward Operating Base

Falcon (since renamed Camp Ferrin-Huggins). The 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment and Task Force 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute

Infantry Regiment were later added to the DIVARTY Combat Team and assumed responsibility of the city's Al Rashid District.

Friday

High: 87
Low: 55



Saturday

High: 90
Low: 58



Sunday

High: 92
Low: 59



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 11
6:30 - 7:10 a.m.



Location: South of Future Division
Headquarters at the base of Antenna Hill



Polite, Professional & Prepared to Kill



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Ellison High School Softball Team Honored

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- If such a thing as "good karma" exists, then the Ellison softball team may have found a way to tap into it.

With the regular season winding down, the Lady Eagles are 10-14 overall, 4-4 in District 17-4A, under first-year head coach Carl Mastro Simone and have a shot—albeit long, at making the playoffs for the first time in the program's history.

While the numbers may not appear remarkable on the surface, they are indicative of a profound change in an Ellison unit whose previous season-best win total was six.

Mastro Simone said one of the reasons for the quick turnaround has been the squad's commitment to community service this season.

"It's been a real big bonding type of deal for us," said Mastro Simone of the Lady Eagles work with elementary and middle school students. "It has made us more of a team. We have a shot of making the playoffs for the first time in the history of Ellison softball ... we haven't even been able to think about the playoffs in previous years."

All 34 members of Ellison's varsity and junior varsity squads participated in the community service, which Mastro Simone decided would be a cornerstone of the program when he took it over.

In November, December and January, the girls went to Nolan Middle School twice a week to help students with their homework after school. The team, which also hosted a math night at Fowler Elementary School and a reading night at Clifton Park Elementary

School, is involved with peer tutoring at Nolan and Fairway Middle Schools and recently assisted with TAAS testing at Fairway Middle School.

And that is just a drop in the bucket, compared to what the team has planned for the future.

It might seem like a lot of extra effort for teenagers juggling school, work and athletic schedules, but Mastro Simone and his team does not see it that way. And the girls' hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Wednesday, the High School Xtra crew rolled into town to recognize the Lady Eagles' efforts. Dave Knobler, host and producer of the television show, which chronicles high school sports across the state, along with Kevin Robinson, assistant manager of the Killeen Discount Tires Company location, presented the team with the Discount Tires Co. Home Team Award.

"The home team of the week is awarded to a community minded team trying to make a positive impact on its community," said Knobler listing the qualities that earned the Lady Eagles a plaque and a spot on the show.

Robinson added that the team embodied the spirit of what the award represents and that the Killeen Discount Tires office was happy to take part in giving credit to the teens for their hard work.

"Our company is built on teamwork," Robinson said. "If there is anything we can do to help the community, we want to be a part of it."

While the team was happy to receive the reward and was excited about the prospect of being on television, many of the teammates said they would do the work even if it did not get them special recognition.



Killeen Daily Herald

The Ellison Softball Team cheers as Coach Carl Mastro Simone accepts the Discount Tires Company Home Team of the Week Award, given for Community Service.

"Knowing that I'm helping people makes me feel good," senior Latasha Pearl said.

Teammate Christina Lantis, also a senior, echoed her coach's sentiments that volunteering together has made the team stronger as a whole.

"Going out and doing things together as a team has made us come closer and play like a better team than we did last year," Lantis said.

Supporting Our Troops in Iraq:

A letter to the Editor from the *Fort Hood Sentinel*

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let everyone know that even in Osceola, Ind. we support our troops. My brother is in the 1st Cav. serving in Iraq and I am very proud of him and what he is doing for our country.

We need to continue to pray for all of our Soldiers and the president. We will make it through this but it will have to be together.

Signed Drew Wohlford

Coalition Will Work with ISF to Rebuild Iraq

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We will use U.S. and coalition troops as needed to get the job done."

Responding to an inquiry regarding problems with coalition partners, Dempsey said, "We have gotten these [Iraqi Security Forces] organizations effective to a point and we will continue to work with them."

Abizaid added, "We need to empower the Iraqi leaders so that they can take control of their country. We cannot allow [Muqtada al-]Sadr to threaten their future."

► Take me out to the ball game



AP

In honor of the U.S. Armed Forces, representatives of the five branches of the military threw out the ceremonial-first pitch at Safeco Field in Seattle, Wash. on April 7. The Anaheim Angels went on to beat the Seattle Mariners 10-7.

Today in History April 9

► From historychannel.com

1865 Robert E. Lee surrenders
1881 Billy the Kid convicted of murder
1940 Germany invades Norway and Denmark
1972 Jane Fonda wins Oscar

Today in Cav History



1944 1st Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment made an assault landing on Pak Island, part of Admiralty Islands. They captured three prisoners who escaped from Rambutoy Island.

TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Kim Possible/ My Life As A Teenage Robot 18:30	The Late Show with David Letterman	NHL - Playoffs 1st Round Game: St. Louis Blues @	Iron Chef
19:00	Jeopardy Headline News 19:30	Access Hollywood 19:30	San Jose Sharks/ Sportscenter 19:30	The Wild Thornberrys/ The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNews Headline News 20:30	Hot Shots	NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves @ Sacra-	The Simpsons The Cosby Show 20:30
21:00	The Simpsons/ That 70s Show 20:30	Selena 21:30	mento Kings	The Dead Zone
22:00	Survivor All-Stars			Boston Public

Scores



MLB:

New York Yankees 3
Chicago White Sox 1

Detroit Tigers 10
Minnesota Twins 6

Cleveland Indians 6
Kansas City Royals 1

Cincinnati Reds 5
Chicago Cubs 3

Milwaukee Brewers 11
St. Louis Cardinals 5

NHL:

